

## [Interview with Vito Cacciola #31]

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Interview

with

Vito Cacciola ....

.....

by

Merton R. Lovett.

.....

“As well as remembered.”

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### Interview with Vito Cacciola

by Morton Lovett

. . . . .

(from memory)

"How does you do, Mr. Lovett?

"And this nica girl in your daughter? By gracious, she looks justa like you, Mr. Lovett.

"De name is Mary? That's a nica name too. Many girls I hava known nam-ed Mary.

"So you saw de Representative, Mr. Brown? What cana he do for Peter?

"That sounds encouraging. I thanka you, Mr. Lovett. You will see he does not forget de promise.

"Yesterday Peter getta de best of news. He say, 'Vito, rejoica with me! I has gota a job. I go to work tomorrow.'

"It is W.P.A. He is very happy. Only three days in week he maka sewer. But his family they eata now with certainty. If he getta that new job it will be even more good.

"Now Peter is a settled in de new tenement. It in splendid. My sister in de law in most remarkable woman. She beautifies de house lika palace. She maka such fine embroideries. They is lovely. One she works on five months.

"I tella her she should starta school and giva de lessons in embroidery to girls. 'No,' she reply; 'now de girls does not wish to do such harda work. They hasa not de patience.

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"Now everyone buya things made by machine, de dress, de lace. Few peoples maka things with de hands. But handwork is mucha nica. And it lasta more permanently. Besides, de work with hands maka for happiness. When I create a something I fella glad.

"And now I am nota oblig-ed to washa my clothes. De sister by de law will do that. Beside she senda to me every night de gooda supper. I will hava more time for music and to reada.

"But my niece rejoica my heart most. She hasa been in New York for year. But her music it has nota suffered. She playa for me on de piano. She has kept up de practice. De Rigalletta, El Travatore, de Humoresques. She renders them with beauty.

"Does you playa de piano, Miss Mary? That is fine. I wanta you to meeta my niece. No other teacher did Angela have. When she was de baby so small, I starta her lessons. We begina each time with prayer and ice cream, candy or popcorn. She lika those things.

"Last night it raina like cats and dogs. I thinka this gooda night to make music here. So I telephone soma de boys I know. We play like de orchestra. Until twelve o'clock we enjoya ourselves. One of de boys leada de band at high school. Does you knows him, Mary?

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"No, we did not playa jazz. I do not approve much of that. Music should maka quiet de nerves. It should resta them. It should not maka them aggravat-ed.

"Swing? That's de monkey business. It belongs to de heathens. Music is thing for de spirit. Swing excita de blood. It is dangerous.

"Bravo! Mr. Lovett. You saya it with feeling. 'Music hath power to soothe de savage breast.' De classical music hava that power.

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"Looka this in paper, Mr. Lovett. See de officer Stone do a brave deed. He capture de yegger. De officer he no is afraid of gun.

"Does you knowa that bandit? De paper saya he lives on Beckford Street. By jingo, crookers maka much danger for evevybodys. What woulda I do if hold-up man coma here? If he hava gun I woulda say, 'Here is de money, taka it quick.' I cannot resista de gun. De man unarm-ed, I can talka to him. I can looka him in de eye. Perhaps I can maka him have shame. De gun that isa different. Never did I meeta de gun which has de conscience.

"Yes, there is too mucha young criminals. They isa not disciplin-ed at home. Their hearts is fill-ed with envy and ignorance.

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"You know that boy nam-ed Nado? He liva across street. He's crazy about de automobiles. He's also gota de devil. He is a most reckless. He wants make race with de policemen. When he seea automobile which is empty he jumpa in.

"Several times he is catch-ed. De policemen say, 'Do it no more.' De father scolds. De mother shed a tears.

"Bye and bye he steals auto which belonga to barber. He maka race with police. He blows de horn and rida like lightening. Then he smasha de car all up. I do not seea why he is not kill-ed.

"Yes, that is so, Mary. He was de star footballer.

"It was too bad for de honor of de school. Against de enemy on Thanksgiving he coulda not play. Instead he goa to jail. For year he must stay in Concord.

"Perhaps he learna de lesson, Mr. Lovett. He losa now his liberty. That is de most precious wealth. He stay in de little room. He cannot leava.

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"His mother weepa much. She say her boy hava no comforts. She says he cry much. She aska me help to get him out de jail.

"Yes, I go-a and talka with lawyer. He's member of Baptist church. He has mucha power. He says he will make investigation.

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"Bye and Bye I see him some more. I tell a him de the boy is weepa and cry a very mucha.

" He say, 'He does that too late. Let him weep!'

"I thinka George [Washington?] was de greata man. He was de father of United States.

"Sure, I reada about him. Leta me get de scrap book.

"See, often I am hungry for knowledge. My heart has de thirst. I cutta out de poems and de nica story. They feeda my spirit. They provida food for mind.

"There it is, de picture of George [Washington?]. And here is some knowledge about him. I showa you whata Washington saya some time. 'It is better to be lonely than to keep company with bad people.' When he saya that, it is what de boys calla de mouthful.

"But I admira Mr. Lincoln more. He have more kindness. He was de sweeter character. He wasa much like Jesus."